

FDD-FBID Services

1. Summaries of Communist-Bloc Periodicals: FDD prepares a descriptive summary of each article in an agreed list of communist periodicals. The summaries are designed to provide analysts with sufficient information about the content of an article to decide whether it should be translated. The summaries are written in completely objective form and translators comments or interpretations are set aside by parentheses and so labelled. Items with political implications have primary interest and are described at greater length, while articles that deal with economic statistics such as plan-fulfillment reports are of very little interest and are described very briefly. Each summary includes on the first page the name of the journal, the issue number, the country of publication, and the date that the article was signed for the press. The summaries are done on a priority basis to enable RPB analysts to incorporate these materials in current analysis.
2. Translation of Articles: FDD provides translations of specific articles on a priority basis. Only articles by high government or party officials are texted automatically. Other articles are translated on request of RPB analysts on the basis of the merit of the individual article.
3. Version Comparisons: Frequently an article from one major periodical will be reprinted in the periodicals of other communist countries. These reprints are compared to the original article for possible additions, omissions and revision.
4. Notification of New Periodicals: FDD notifies FBID when in the course of their regular scrutiny activities they become aware of a new publication which might be of interest to RPB analysts. FDD also makes arrangements to acquire the publication, review it and report their conclusions and observation in writing to FBID.
5. Changes in Receipt-Schedule of Periodicals: FDD maintains records on the average delay in receipt of all the communist periodicals and reports unusual variations in receipt to RPB.
6. Changes in Editorial Board: For those periodicals which carry a list of the members of the editorial board, each issue is examined and any changes in the composition of the editorial board are reported to RPB.
7. Limited Distribution Items: FDD sends RPB copies of translations of political items from communist sources done at the request of other consumers.
8. RPB Guidance to FDD: Copies of substantive guidance sent to FBID field bureaus are also sent to FDD. FDD is also made aware of RPB requirements through desk to desk contact between analysts and by FDD analysts' reading Radio Propaganda Branch publications.
9. FBID Acquisition for FDD: FBID acquires certain communist periodicals for FDD in order to expedite FDD receipt of the periodicals. This list may be revised or expanded at any time on request by FDD.